

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-02 STR-08

AGR-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /210 W
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R 221650Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1037

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 17781

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR/FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FARMERS UNREST

REF: PARIS 17704, PARIS 17560

SUMMARY: FARMERS UNREST CONTINUES BUT SLOWDOWN EXPECTED
BY MAIN FARM ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. JUDGING THAT THE RECENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EEC

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AND GOF ARE INSUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN THEIR REVENUE AND

HAVE NOT INCREASED PRICES FOR THEIR PRODUCTS AT FARM LEVEL, FRENCH FARMERS CONTINUED DEMONSTRATING DURING THE WEEK-END, INTERRUPTING HOLIDAY TRAFFIC ON MANY ROADS. AFTER THE VIOLENCE OF LAST WEEK AND THE INCREASING DISAPPROVAL OF THIS KIND OF DEMONSTRATION BY MOST FRENCH (POLICE GENERALLY FOLLOWED A HANDS-OFF POLICY AS PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC - FORMER AG AND INTERIOR MINISTER - MAY HAVE WANTED TO SAVE HIS GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH FARMERS) MANY PEOPLE CRITICIZED THE PASSIVENESS OF THE POLICE. THE TRUCK DRIVERS ASSOCIATION OFFICIALLY COMPLAINED TO GOF. LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN SEVERAL REGIONS REFUSED TO WORK AFTER LIQUID MANURE WAS SPREAD ON THEIR BUILDING.

2. THE MAIN FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS (F.N.S.E.A. AND C.N.J.A.), WHILE WANTING TO PUBLICIZE CURRENT PLIGHT OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, ARE CONCERNED WITH CHANGING TIDE OF PUBLIC OPINION. THEY HAVE INSTRUCTED LOCAL OFFICES TO AVOID VIOLENCES AND REPUGNANT ACTIONS. THE ORGANIZATIONS ARE SHIFTING TO THEIR "SMILE" CAMPAIGN WHICH CONSISTS OF FREE DISTRIBUTION OR SALES AT LOW PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ALONG THE HOLIDAY ROADS, WHICH ALLOWS FARMERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM NON-FARMERS OF THEIR PROBLEMS.

3. THE DISSIDENT FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS (MODEF, COMMUNIST AND FFA, RIGHT) HAVE ASKED THEIR MEMBERS TO CONTINUE DEMONSTRATIONS. THUS, IN THE COMING DAYS, THE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO DECLINE BUT NO STOP AND WILL BE MAINLY IN THE AREAS WHERE THE MODEF IS STRONGEST (CENTRAL AND WESTERN PART OF FRANCE).

IRWIN

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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